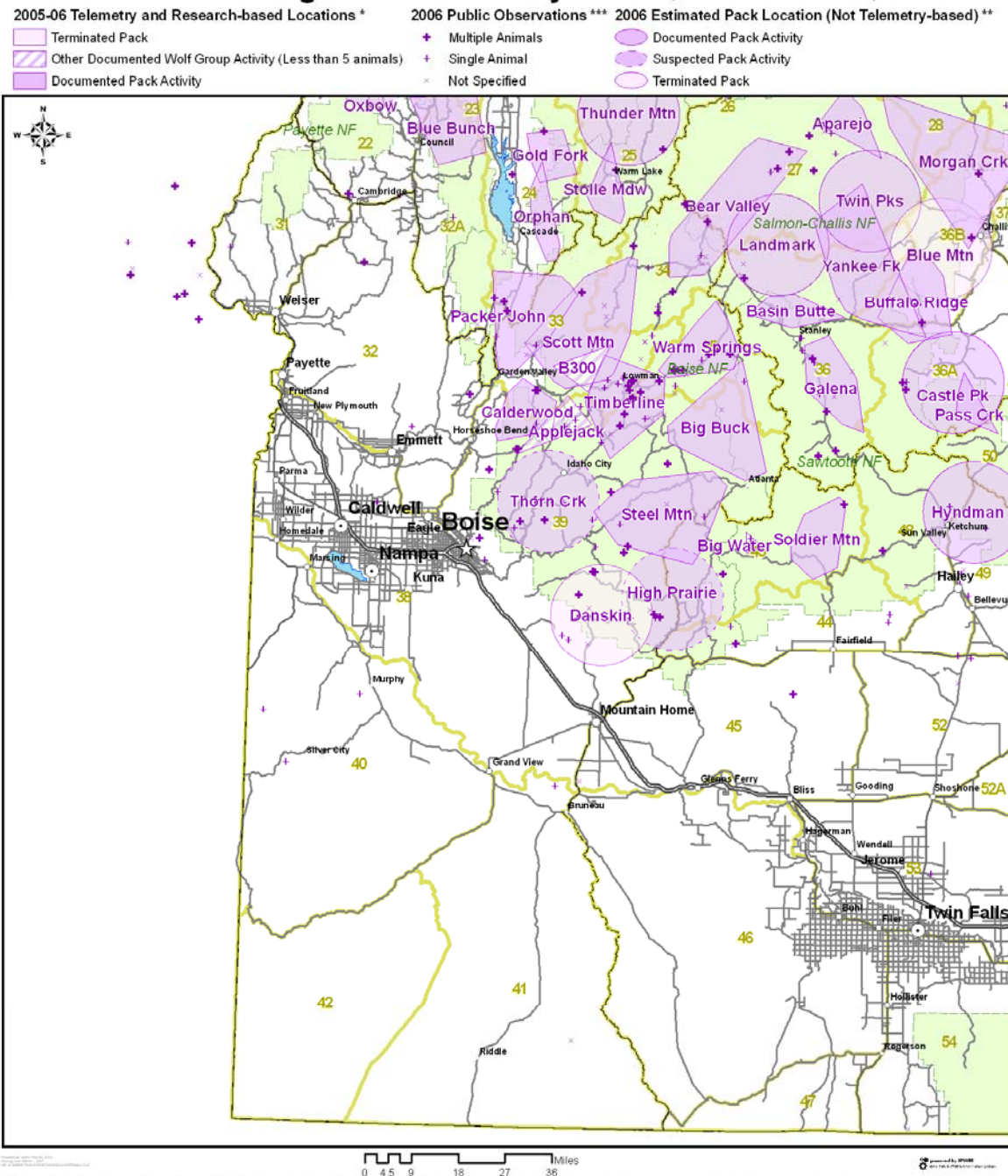


2006 Southwest Region Wolf Activity

Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations



* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the National Park Service. Pack locations are minimum convex polygons of telemetry and research observations for radio-collared wolves from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2006 with outliers removed. Packs which did not exist in 2006 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

** Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2005 - 12/31/2006.
*** Public Observations from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2006 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Map Produced by Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with: The Nez Perce Tribe; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; USDAAPHIS Wildlife Services; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; and the National Park Service

Figure 9. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Nampa Subregion, 2006.

Table 5. Estimated pack size, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Nampa Subregion, 2006.

Wolf pack or group	Min. no. wolves detected ^a	Reproductive status				Documented mortalities				Monitoring status			Confirmed & probable		
		Min. no.	Reported	Reported	Active					Number	Number	wolf-caused	livestock losses		
		pups prod.	as reprod. packs	as breeding pairs ^b	Natural	Control ^c	Other human ^d	Unknown ^e	Known dispersal	radioco llars	wolves captured ^f	wolves missing ^g	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs
Documented pack															
Bear Valley	13	?	no	no	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Big Buck	5	2	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Calderwood	5	4	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Danskin ^h	1	3	yes	no	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Packer John	3	1	yes	no	0	2 ⁱ	0	0	0	2	0	1	1 ⁱ	0	0
Scott Mountain	4	1	yes	no	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Steel Mountain	10	4	yes	yes	0	4 ^j	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	33 ^j	0
Timberline	10	3	yes	yes	0	2	0	0	1	2	6	3	0	2	1
Warm Springs	4	6	yes	yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Subtotal	55	24			0	12	1	0	3	11	8	5	5	37	1
Suspected pack															
Thorn Creek	1				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	1				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other doc. group															
B300	2				0	0	0	0	0	1	0 ^k	0	0	0	0
B306	3				0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	5				0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Unknown															
Subtotal					0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0
Regional total	61	24			0	13	1	0	3	13	9	5	5	57	1

^a Number of wolves detected by wolf program personnel through observations of wolves or wolf sign and believed alive at end of 2006. Unknown status denoted by “?”. Sum of this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

^b Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

^c Includes agency lethal control and legal take by landowners.

^d Includes all other human-related deaths.

^e Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

^f Includes all wolves captured during 2006. Most, but not all, were radiocollared.

^g Radiocollared wolves that became missing in 2006.

^h Lethally removed during 2006; not included in end-of-year tallies.

Table 5. Continued.

ⁱ Depredations and control action happened in the McCall Subregion.

^j All Steel Mountain depredations and 1 of 4 control actions occurred in the Magic Valley Region.

^k B300 was captured in 2006 while a member of Timberline and subsequently dispersed.

Magic Valley Region

During 2006, the Magic Valley Region was home to 3 documented wolf packs. One documented pack counted as a breeding pair (Figure 10; Table 6). All 5 documented mortalities were human caused. Confirmed sheep losses ($n = 11$) were attributed to the Big Water pack, which was subsequently removed ($n = 7$ wolves). Additional sheep ($n = 4$) were lost in the Lime Creek and Vat Creek areas. These losses were not attributed to a known pack. The Steel Mountain pack also killed sheep in the Magic Valley Region; however, these losses are documented in the Nampa Subregion section (Table 5). Four Steel Mountain wolves were controlled; one of which was within the boundaries of the Magic Valley Region. No cattle or dog losses were documented. No wolves were radiocollared in 2006.



Photo Michael Lucid

Soldier Mountain alpha male B149 with pack mate.

Law Enforcement Summary

Regional Conservation Officers, in consultation with USFWS Special Agents, investigated 3 reports of shot wolves. The first incident involved 2 subjects that admitted to shooting a wolf near the South Fork Boise River. An IDFG officer collected the initial evidence and assisted USFWS Special Agents in interviewing the subjects, resulting in a conviction. In the second incident, a Conservation Officer responded to a wolf shot in amongst sheep by the livestock owner; it was determined a wolf had been shot, but no carcass could be found. In the third incident, a bow-hunter called in a group of 3 wolves near Pine and shot 1 of the wolves with an arrow. A carcass was not recovered and the investigation is on-going. Additionally, a road-killed wolf was found near Mountain Home.

Documented Resident Packs

Big Water

Mid-winter monitoring flights detected Steel Mountain subordinate female B188 had dispersed and localized along the South Fork of the Boise River. B188 was observed with another wolf

through winter and spring. Five pups were counted in the spring, confirming reproduction. In June, this pack was implicated in a sheep depredation event in which 11 sheep were killed. Alpha female B188 and her mate were subsequently trapped and euthanized. The remaining pups are suspected to have died from lack of parental care. Big Water was not counted as a breeding pair for 2006.

Hyndman

Multiple attempts by biologists failed to locate wolves in Hyndman's traditional use area. Although wolf presence was not verified in 2006, Hyndman is listed as a documented pack due to the 2-year rule.

Soldier Mountain

In May, coyote hunters illegally shot alpha female B150. This left alpha male B149 and subordinate female B192 as the remaining radiocollars in this pack. A biologist visited the den site several days after B150's death but was unable to determine if pups still survived. In July, a biologist visited a rendezvous site and was able to get multiple pups to howl; confirming reproduction and pup survival several months after the alpha female's death. Subordinate female B191 was documented as a disperser to Montana by MTFWP biologists. This fifth-year pack had a minimum of 9 wolves (3 gray, 6 black), was not implicated in livestock depredations, and was counted as a breeding pair for 2006.



Photo Michael Lucid

Soldier Mountain den hole.

Suspected Resident Packs

High Prairie

A sheep depredation in Lime Creek affirmed wolf activity in this area and resulted in the control of 1 wolf. Additionally, several public reports indicate there may be pack activity in this area.